

Serial No. 10/790,056

ASA-1168

Amendment

Responsive to Office Action dated December 24, 2008

**REMARKS****Pending Claims**

Claims 1, and 12-13 are pending. Claims 2-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hotta, U.S. Patent No. 6,836,481. Claims 2-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

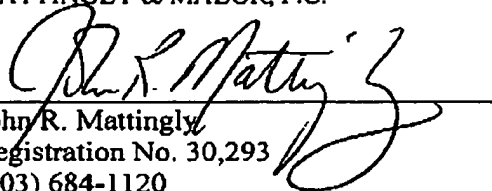
Claims 1, 12 and 13 are allowed.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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